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Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

August 2015

President's Message

By Bob Dreyer



Photo courtesy of Bob Dreyer

The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

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Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

While the “dog days” of Summer may be upon us, and many of us find ourselves looking forward to Fall vacations, CSCMVA is hard at work training the docent class of 2015. There is only one week of classroom training left before our “students” enter the mentoring phase of their instruction. I’m happy to say that we have a bright, motivated group of students who are looking forward to getting involved in the day-to-day activities of the association. My many thanks to those who have been participating as instructors, snack makers, and participants. You don’t know how much the students and facilitators appreciate that so many of you have shown up and welcomed the new class and participated in the training. Those of you who are going to be mentors should have an enjoyable time, and you will find your trainees to be both bright and eager to learn. The last session is scheduled for August 20th, so if you haven’t come down to meet the new class yet, you still have a two sessions left before they graduate. Join us at their graduation.

We all had a great time at the River Cats baseball game on July 29th. It was the hottest day of the year, but our seats were in the shade and a nice breeze came up about the 4th inning. Everyone I’ve spoken with agrees that this should be an annual event. It was nice to see our name in lights on the big scoreboard.

Due to some unfortunate redecorating issues with the Senate side of the Capitol we have found it necessary to postpone our Fall living history event until the Spring. As next year is an election year having both the Spring Suffrage event and the Election event in 2016 is appropriate. More information will be provided as the committee firms up dates, etc.

We have moved California’s Birthday party from the 9th of September to the 8th of September due to other groups reserving outside areas of the building. Send me a note if you wish to participate in the ice cream and cake party on Tuesday 9/8/15 on the North Steps of the Capitol.

On September 2nd there will be a training session at 10:00

CSCMVA Promotes the Educational and Interpretive Activities of the California State Capitol Museum

the PORTS program for CSCMVA members. This is the teleconferencing program that takes the Capitol into school rooms across the state. Our members are invited to participate in the programs, in costume, and enrich what is already an outstanding way to bring history to elementary students.

Finally, keep an eye out for information regarding a fall social event...as always, the board is working on something.

~ **Bob**

Sunshine Corner:

Thankfully, we do not have a report of anyone who is ill or needs our encouragement, but Scotty remains on the "ready" to share our good wishes should they be needed.

Therefore, please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



Graduation for the CSCMVA Class of 2015:

After more than a month of "classroom" instruction, members of the class of 2015 will graduate on **Thursday August 20th**, and at that time they will be matched with a mentor who will complete their training in the museum rooms. If you have not yet met members of the new class, or have met them, and want to share their graduation, you are invited to it and a celebratory luncheon reception to follow. **Graduation will occur at 11:30** on the 20th and, as noted, you are also invited to join us at the luncheon following.

And, Speaking of Graduations....



Matt Bellah

CA State Parks, and our own, **Matt Bellah** celebrated a big graduation recently having completed all of the requirements for a **Masters of Science (MS) degree in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration** from Sacramento State University. Congratulations, Matt!

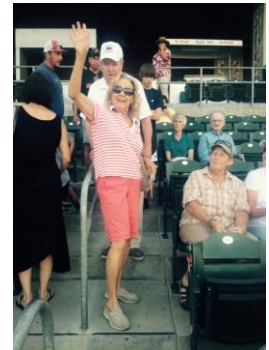
As many of us know who completed degrees once we were married and busy with family life, Matt's achievement is no doubt due to the support and encouragement offered by his family.



River Cats Baseball Night:

Approximately sixty hardy CSCMVA members, family and /or friends braved record heat to root the River Cats baseball team to a win on the night of **July 29** at Raley Field. It was a special treat to see the Association's name in LIGHTS on the scoreboard!

At right:
Alex King and **Marita Martin**
at River Cats Baseball game



Contribution through CSCMVA to State Library and Courts:

Within the past month, **Bob Dennis** and **Alex King** were able to finalize the generous donation to CSCMVA of an antique wall model International Time Clock. The clock was manufactured by International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) in 1928 for the purpose of recording the manual "clocking in and clocking out" of employees. Bob and Alex picked up and transported the clock from the anonymous donor's home to its new "home" outside the entrance to the CA State Librarian's Office. **Koren Benoit**, Capitol Curator, did not see an appropriate period-appropriate location for it within the Capitol, but she facilitated the donation to the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts building, where **Greg Lucas**, California State Librarian, was thrilled to receive it. If you visit the building, be sure to look for it on the second floor. It is still ticking away....but there is no chime to disturb employees (both now...and then).



Alex King and Bob Dennis: Moving Day



Setting the Clock



**Gerald Maginnity
Deputy State Librarian**

Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

(Editor's Note: This article represents the fourth in a new series entitled "The Rise of San Francisco as The Queen City of the Pacific." On behalf of the membership of CSCMVA, many thanks to Clem for his regular contribution of well researched and very informative articles about California history!)

Did you know that silver from the mines of Virginia City, Nevada, built much of the **city of San Francisco**? Yes, it's true. You may recall that the California Gold Rush started on January 24, 1848, and that the gold panning part of the Gold Rush (the individual miners panning for gold) lasted approximately 12 years from 1848 to 1860. Just as the gold panning part of the Gold Rush was

playing out in California, silver was discovered in Nevada. These Nevada mines were called the Comstock Mines named after Henry Comstock, an early discoverer of the silver, and they were located principally at Virginia City, Nevada. Thus, beginning in 1860, many of the California gold miners rushed to Virginia City to strike it rich. But the type of mining in Virginia City was not gold panning. This was hard rock mining with the silver mines tunneling deep into the sides of mountains. And this type of mining demanded lots of capital to finance the construction and operation of the mines. Into this picture with capital to invest, stepped the banks and heavy investors of San Francisco. And chief among them were **William Ralston and the Bank of California** located in San Francisco.



William Ralston

On June 13, 1864, Ralston founded the Bank of California with himself as chief executive officer, **Darius O. Mills** as president, and **William Sharon** as the on-site representative of the Bank in Virginia City. Ralston lavishly lent bank money to the mines producing the silver ore and to the stamp mills that processed the silver ore being excavated from the mines. Dominating the mining process still further, Ralston lent money to the railroads carrying the processed ore to the Carson Valley and to the owners of the horse and mule wagons carrying the ore over the Sierra Nevada to San Francisco. Soon Ralston, Mills, Sharon, and a circle of friends known as "Ralston's Ring" or the "Bank Crowd" had a virtual monopoly over the wealth coming from Virginia City to San Francisco. Over the next 25 years, the Comstock mines produced silver ore amounting to \$350 million (\$6 billion in today's money). There were so many investors wanting to buy and sell shares in the Comstock mines that San Francisco soon had its own mining stock exchange upon which the mining shares were traded. Ralston's Ring controlled the mining exchange.

As the wealth from the Virginia City mines poured into San Francisco and, in particular, into the Bank of California, Ralston lavishly lent the money out to such San Francisco businesses as woolen mills, silk mills, gas works, iron foundries, machine shops, furniture shops, and carriage shops. As a result, a building boom went on in San Francisco in which the owners / operators flush with money lent by Ralston and the Bank built thousands of new buildings to accommodate all the new business and all the people working in those businesses. As part of the new building taking place, Ralston then built a new headquarters for the Bank of California located on the northwest corner of Sansome and California streets and attracting other financial businesses to locate nearby. The San Francisco Stock Exchange sat across the street. Thus was born the financial district of San Francisco located north of Market Street with the Bank of California at its center. California Street became the Wall Street of the West. (see Lavender, David, Nothing Seemed Impossible: William C. Ralston and the City of San Francisco, p. 203)

Market Street now became the dividing line between the financial district on the north and the manufacturing district on the south. There operated south of Market all the factories financed with money from Ralston and the Bank of California. Principal among these businesses was the Union Iron Works producing all equipment needed by the Comstock mines such as pumps, drills, hoisting machinery, ore cleaners, and boilers. More than a thousand men worked in these south-of-Market factories and with their families lived in dwellings close to their workplaces. South of Market became an Irish working man's stronghold. The newly rich fled from south of Market to build mansions on San Francisco's hills, particularly Nob Hill. Thus, a new circle of wealth ran from Virginia City to north of Market St. and from north of Market St. to south of Market Street, and from south of Market St. back again to Virginia City. Thus, Virginia City became a colony of San Francisco. (see Bretchin, Gray, Imperial San Francisco, University of California Press, 2006, p. 39)

Ralston did not limit the Bank's investments and his investments to San Francisco. Ralston heavily extended the Bank's resources to ocean going steamship lines and to railroads, particularly the Central Pacific which became the Bank's principal debtor. Ralston also spent lavishly creating the new Palace Hotel on Market Street (the largest and most luxurious hotel in the West) and a sprawling mansion for himself and his family in Belmont south of San Francisco.

But disaster struck in 1875. Ralston had over extended himself and the Bank in loans. A number of financial matters adverse to Ralston and the Bank came together at one time, so that when the Ophir mine in Nevada, in which the Bank had invested much money began to dry up, the Bank and Ralston found themselves unable to meet their obligations. By then the Bank's obligations exceeded its assets by \$4.5 million. William Sharon, the Bank's agent in Virginia City, inexplicably dumped hundreds of Ophir mining shares for sale on the Stock Exchange. Suddenly panic developed among the City's investors who began to withdraw their money from the Bank. The Bank could not meet all the demand for withdrawals and closed its doors. The next day, August 27, 1875, the Board of Directors of the Bank asked Ralston to resign. He did. And then he went for a swim in Aquatic Park. He never returned, apparently a drowning victim in the Bay. Whether it was a suicide or stroke that killed him has never been satisfactorily answered. He was 49 years old.

William Ralston and the Bank of California, using money derived from silver in the Virginia City mines, launched San Francisco on to what the City became in the 19th and early 20th centuries: the financial, manufacturing, shipping, and cultural capital of California. San Francisco was well on its way to becoming the Queen City of the Pacific Rim.

(Sources: Lavender, David, Nothing Seemed Impossible: William C. Ralston and the City of San Francisco, American West Publishing Co., 1975; Bretchin, Gray, Imperial San Francisco, University of California Press, 2006, pp.38-46; Rand, Richards, Historic San Francisco, Heritage House Publishers, 2005, pp. 99-105; Wilson, Neil, 400 California St. 2nd edition, pp.1-51)

Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

(Editor's note: This volunteer was previously featured in the Spotlight several years ago.)

If you have been in any activities at the Capitol you have met this Volunteer as she is active in every aspect of our Association. She says that she was once a 'shy little one' born near the Cheyenne River of **North Dakota** from a family of mixed Swedish and German heritage. Her family soon moved to Minnesota and lived in Minneapolis until she was 5 years old. Then they moved to a little town north of "the cities," not exactly at, but close to, Lake Wobegone.



Ann Rost with grandson, Michael

Ann Rost is the Lady from North Dakota though not so shy anymore! She is a **Registered Nurse (RN)**, having earned her degree from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Minneapolis. During her career, she worked in a variety of nursing specialties until 2001 when she retired from her position as **Regional Operations Director** for **Sutter Medical Foundation** in Sacramento. She also earned a **Bachelor of Arts** in Health Care Administration from **St Mary's College** of Moraga 50 years after her first graduation. She says that although it was a ton of work with a full time job, going back to school was really a "kick"!

She and her **husband, Tom, have been married 52 years!** (Applause! Applause!) They were blessed with three wonderful children and their spouses, and six delightful grandchildren whom Ann declares: “Is there any other kind??” Tom’s career as a Plant Biologist brought them to UC Davis in 1972. His work has taken him and the family all over the world. He retired in 2006 and has been called back three times! They jokingly call it “failed retirement.” He is currently working with the **University International Programs** of U.S.A.I.D. (a division of the U.S. State Department) and makes regular trips to **Pakistan**.



Ann says that she heard about the CSCMVA from a friend who had been through the program prior to the horrific **“truck incident of 2001”** which devastated the south entrance to the Capitol. So when she saw the ad in the paper for new docents, she was compelled to find out more. She loved learning the history of the places she and Tom had visited and sharing stories comes naturally.

Her class graduated in the **fall of 2002**, and she was hooked on the Capitol. She has participated in, or co-chaired, nearly every Living History event since; interpreted the Museum Rooms, and led tours for stateside and European visitors; served on the Board of Directors; Co-chairs the Costume Committee; participated in numerous costume sewing workshops; and has been a mentor for every class since she graduated.



She offers the following for being a successful Capitol volunteer: **“become comfortable with the building and its stories; continue to learn more Sacramento and California history; and love sharing the information with Capitol visitors. Also one should be a good ‘citizen’ of the volunteer group, step up and try committee work and be active in Living History Events. Then after you see the things that are available to do, don’t be afraid to co-chair something with an experienced volunteer. It will keep your organizational skills fresh.”**

Both Ann and Tom share an interest in Community Theater. They have both acted in the **Winters Theater Company** productions for many years. That explains why they both bring such talent to our own Living History Events! She also belongs to a Book Group and is active in two church groups. Ann does not brag about all of her achievements; however, among her many awards, and one of which she is very proud, is the **William Geach Award**. This award is given for dedication and commitment to California State Parks and the State Capitol Museum Volunteer Program. She worked for years with Bill and Mary Geach and feels honored to have been one of the first recipients of this award in 2010.

Ann also shares the fact that she really cherishes the friends that she has made within CSCMVA. That feeling is certainly mutual, as we cherish having Ann as a member; thank her for all her contributions to the success of Association events and projects; and look forward to her future contributions.

Minutes of the CSCMVA Board - August 5, 2015

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **President Bob Dreyer**.

Minutes were approved as distributed.

2015 Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report: **Bob Dennis** provided a detailed report of the Association's finances and concluded that we are in "good shape." Officer's Errors and Omissions insurance has increased by \$300 annually. Report was approved as submitted.

Bookstore / Membership Report: **Mary Geach** reported Bookstore profits were \$3,300 for July or more than \$800 more than July 2014. She further stated that the Bookstore /Gift Shop is unable to provide change for the upcoming "penny smasher." Matt Bellah offered the Tourist Desk as an alternative. Bob Dreyer and Bob Dennis will work with Matt on details prior to the delivery of the penny smasher in September.



2015 Board of Directors

Front Row: Marilyn Thompson, PJ Jones, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis
Back Row : Connie Clark, Alex King, Julie Mallett, Chris Tyler, David Keck

Mary further reported that all 17 of the 2015 new member class have joined the Association, and Mary will have name badges ready for each of them in time for their mentoring.

State Parks Report: **Matt Bellah** reported that work is now being done to paint and "rehab" Sutter's Fort. **Chris Tyler** reported that she is working on making choices for the WW II posters. Decision should be made within a week or so. **Koren Benoit** reported that she has given much thought and research into revising the visitor brochures. The three part tan brochure with map will be phased out. She is going to improve and enlarge the former kids' brochure into a "family guide" to include the best of both. In the future, she reported, there will be a park guide, a family guide, and the current "Capitol Guide." She hopes to have them ready by September.

Continuing Business:

- **River Cats Game** was a big success, enjoyed by all. Could it become an annual event?
- **New Training Class:** Two original participants have dropped out leaving a class of 17. Koren gave a report of what her plans are for her presentation on Tuesday, August 13. As a separate item, the suggestion was made for future training to include more information and visuals on how the building looked before restoration.
- **Suffrage Day:** This event has had to be postponed due to the painting and re-carpeting being done in the Senate chamber and Senate hearing rooms 112 and 113. It might be held in April 2016.
- **Admission Day:** Rescheduled to **Tuesday, September 8** because the outside of the building was booked for another event on September 9th. Event planning is underway.
- **Holiday Decorations:** Jan and Marilyn are meeting soon to plan the next phase of decorations preparation. Koren has information on toys from Parks warehouse some of which might be used in one of the rooms. She will meet with Marilyn and Jan.

New Business:

- **Fall Social Event:** Ideas put forth for consideration: train ride to Reno, party in the Elks Building in downtown Sacramento, wine tasting in Clarksburg, a Hornblower river cruise. Members are encouraged to contact Bob Dreyer or a board member with other suggestions.
- **Annual Meeting:** PJ Jones is coordinating this event. Members are encouraged to contact her if they would like to help.

- **CSCMVA Donation:** Alex mentioned that he and Bob Dennis had facilitated the donation of a beautiful antique time clock to the State Library. They reported it has been installed on the wall outside of the State Librarian's office.

**The August Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 2 at 1:00 PM.
All members are encouraged to attend.**

Welcome New Members of the Class of 2015!

Upcoming Events:

New Members Class:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 18 and 20
New Members Class Graduation and Lunch:	Thursday August 20 11:30 AM
Training:	Wednesday, September 2, 10 AM PORTS Program
Board of Directors Mtg.:	Wednesday, September 2, 1 PM
Admissions Day:	<u>Tuesday</u>, September 8
Women's' Suffrage Day:	Deferred until Spring
Holiday Music Program:	December 1 - 23

To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319
Rachel Martinez**

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,

Christmas and New Year's Day